

matthew peterson | composer

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curriculum vitae & works list



“Truly beautiful” (*The Washington Post*), “startlingly immediate” (*Wall Street Journal*), “darkly brilliant” (*Classical Review*) and “gritty, colorful, often profane and clearly true-to-life” (*Opera News*), **Matthew Peterson** is a composer who moves dynamically between bold, socially-relevant contemporary operas, vast orchestral works celebrating a great and powerful natural world, playful and

virtuosic solos, and shimmering, innovative choral works.

Peterson’s music contains multitudes: seriousness, humor, power, tenderness, wilfulness - the grand and sublime as well as the fragile and delicate. His music has been commissioned and performed around the world by leading ensembles including the Minnesota Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center, the Swedish Radio Choir, Eric Ericsons Chamber Choir, and Stockholm Saxophone Quartet.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

From 2024-2026 Peterson will serve as Composer-in-Residence with Dalasinfoniettan in Falun, Sweden. Since 2020 he has received **commissions** from the Swedish Radio Choir, Gränslandet Symfonisk Fest, Länsmusiken Kalmar, Dalasinfoniettan, Carolinae Röster, Högalidskyrkan, Relativ Dansproduktion, Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Lund Choral Festival, Stockholm Saxophone Quartet, FST & SKAP, Gustaf Sjökvists Kammarkör, Sofia Vokalensemble, organist Daniel Larsson, and percussionist Magdalena Meitzner. As an orchestrator and co-composer he has collaborated with performing and recording artists Moonica Mac, Sara Ajnnak, Erik Lundin, Klerup, Sirintip Phasuk, and Mariam the Believer.

Recent and upcoming **premiere performances** include the October 2023 premiere of *You Are My Hiding Place* with Carolinae Röster, November 2023 premiere of *Gajanis Eko* with Sara Ajnnak, the April 2024 premiere of the horn trio *Winning Isn’t Everything It’s the Only Thing* for Ben Goldscheider, Callum Smart and Richard Uttley, summer 2024 premiere of *Creatures Wild and Lonely* for tenor saxophonist Theo Hillborg, the September 2024 premiere of *Vagabond* with Dalasinfoniettan, the spring 2025 premiere of a new work celebrating the Swedish Radio Choir’s 100-year anniversary, the August 2025 premiere of a percussion concerto at Gränslandet Symfonisk Fest, the fall 2025 premiere of a new dance work choreographed by Christina Tingskog and the spring 2026 world premiere of Peterson’s second symphony by Dalasinfoniettan and the Swedish Radio Choir.

Peterson’s **recordings** include the internationally-acclaimed original-cast album of the opera *Voir Dire* (RedHouse, 2020), *In Paradisum* with Sofia Vokalensemble, featuring Cantate Domino (Footprint, 2019), *Light Fields* with Uppsala Vokalensemble (Footprint, 2020), *Smooth Fat Nasty*, the portrait album of Peterson’s complete saxophone works with Stockholm Saxophone Quartet (European Gramophone, Dec 2021), and the spring 2025 recording of *Högalidsmässan* with Dalasinfoniettan and Gustaf Sjökvists Kammarkör.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Peterson's numerous awards include the 2023 Musikförläggarnas Pris (Swedish Music Publishers' Award) for *An Inner Sky*, Carin Malmlöf-Forssling Composer Prize from the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, the Sven-David Sandström Award for Choral Composition, "Classical of the Year" from Dalecarlia Music Awards, the ASCAP Nissim Prize for best orchestral work, grand prize in the Uppsala Composer Competition, and the Fort Worth Frontiers award for new opera. He has received grants and funding from Fulbright, STIM, ASCAP, Längmanska Kulturfond, Kulturrådet (the Swedish Arts Council), Konstnärsnämnden (the Swedish Arts Grants Committee), the Wallenberg Foundation, Helge Ax:son Johnson Foundation, and the Swedish Society of Composers (FST). His choral, chamber and solo music has been featured on festivals including Nordic Choir Expedition, Svensk Musikvår, Lund Choral Festival, and Sound of Stockholm (Sweden), Karuizawa International Choral Festival (Japan), Boston Ahts (USA) and Purpur (South Africa). Peterson's works are published and distributed by Gehrmans, Edition Skellton, Hinshaw, Tempo Music Resource, and Svensk Musik/Swedish Music Information Center.

EDUCATION

Peterson holds degrees from the Gotland School of Music Composition (artist diploma), Indiana University School of Music (M.M.) and St. Olaf College (B.M.), where his teachers included Sven-David Sandström and Mary Ellen Childs. Currently head instructor and founder of the music composition program at Lilla Akademien, Matthew has also served on the faculty of the Gotland School of Music Composition (Visby, Sweden) and as Associate Instructor in music composition at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Matthew is an avid outdoorsman and lives in Dalarna, Sweden.

education

Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Bloomington, IN, 2011-12

- Studies towards **Doctor of Music** degree in Composition, Jacobs Doctoral Fellow

Gotlandstonsättarskola (Gotland Composer School) Sweden, 2008-09

Fulbright Fellow in music composition (08-09), **Frikonst diploma**

- Studied composition with Per Mårtensson and Henrik Strindberg

Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Bloomington, IN, 2006-08

Graduated with **Masters of Music Degree** in Composition, minor in electro-acoustic music

- Studied composition with Claude Baker and Sven-David Sandström

St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, 2002-06

Bachelor of Music degrees in Theory/Composition and Double Bass Performance

- Graduated *magna cum laude* with distinction in music composition
- Studied composition with Justin Merritt, Tim Mahr, Mary Ellen Childs
- Studied Double Bass with Paul Ousley

discography

2021

Lament for Sven-David Sandström, Stockholm Saxophone Quartet (European Gramophone, May 26 2021)

Baddest Girl on the Mountain, Linn Persson (European Gramophone, October 2021)

Dance Party Playlist, Stockholm Saxophone Quartet (EG, Oct. 21)

Vingar Virvlar, Linn Persson and Kristin Uglar (EG, Oct. 21)

Smooth Fat Nasty: Matthew Peterson - the saxophone works, Stockholm Saxophone Quartet, Linn Persson, Kristin Uglar (European Gramophone, December 2021)

2020

Light Fields, Uppsala Vokalensemble (Footprint Records, Mar 14 2020)

Voir Dire: a courtroom opera, Matthew Peterson & Jason Zencka (RedHouse, August 9 2020)

2019

In Paradisum, Sofia Vokalensemble (Footprint Records, Nov 15 2019)

commissions

2024

Dalasinfoniettan

- 10' overture for sinfonietta, for premiere 2024-25 season

Gränslandet Symfonisk Fest

- Percussion Concerto, 20', for premiere August 2025

Relativ Dansproduktion, Christina Tingskog

- *Otrolig avlägset men extremt nu*, music for 50' dance production for premiere November 2025

Swedish Radio Choir

- 6' work for mixed choir a cappella, for premiere 2025

2023

FST & SKAP

- *Gajanis Eko*, 10' collaborative work with performing artist Sara Ajnnak, for Sara Ajnnak with string quartet, double bass, electric guitar and percussion, premiere Nov 15 2023

Carolinae Röster

- *You are my hiding place*, 5' for SSAA chorus, premiere October 7 2023, Lund

Länsmusiken Kalmar Län

- new work, 10' for horn trio, for premiere April 2024 by Ben Goldscheider Trio April 2024

2022

Högalidskykran, Stockholm

- *Högalidsmässan*, 43' for SATB chorus, chamber orchestra, organ, and antiphonal brass, for premiere June 2023 in honor of the church's 100 year anniversary. Text by Gunilla Lindén

Relativ Dansproduktion, Christina Tingskog

- *Dimridåer & Villospår*, music for 40' dance production for premiere October 2022

- *Sentio Ergo Sum*, 30' dance production for premiere October 2023

both funded by Kulturrådet, Swedish Arts Council, and Konstnärsnämnden, the Artist's Fund

2021

Musik i Dalarna (Dalasinfoniettan) & Swedish Radio Choir

- Symphony No. 2 (40') for sinfonietta and chamber choir, for premiere 2025-26 funded by Musik i Dalarna and *Kulturrådet*, the Swedish Arts Council

Magnum Chorum (MN)

- *Behold, I make all things new* for SATB chorus, 5', for premiere May 7 2023

Percussionist Magdalena Meitzner

- *Shamans of the Digital Wasteland*, 10', premiere

Swedish Royal Academy of Music & Swedish Radio Choir

- *An Inner Sky*, text by EE Cummings, 18' for SATB chorus, for premiere Oct 29 2022 with the Swedish Radio Choir

2020

St Olaf Orchestra, Northern Symphony, & Metropolitan Symphony

- Symphony No. 1 - *The Singing Wilderness* (38') for symphony orchestra, for premiere Jan 2022

Daniel Nelsson/Säterbygdens Församling (Säter parish)

- *To the Firmament* for pipe organ, for the fifty year anniversary of the organ at Gustafs Kyrka (for premiere Dec 2021)

Gustaf Sjökvists Chamber Choir & Stockholm Saxophone Quartet

- *In the beginning* (6') for SATB choir and sax quartet, for premiere Mar 27 2020

Lund Choral Festival & Sofia Vokalensemble

- three motets (15') for SATB choir for premiere Oct 19 2020
funded by Musik i Syd

Gränslandet Symfonisk Fest

- orchestrations of ten songs (40') by artist SKATOR

2019

Unga tankar om musik (UToM)

- *Koraconnes* for cellist Jakob Koranyi (7'), *The Baddest Girl on the Mountain* (4') for saxophonist Linn Persson, *Polska Plska Pla* (3') for pianist Anna Christensson
funded by the Wallenberg Foundation

Stockholm Saxophone Quartet

- *Dance Party Playlist* (20') for sax quartet
funded by Kulturrådet - Swedish Arts Council

St. Olaf College, James Madison University, First Baptist San Antonio

- *Newborn Glimmer* (6') for symphony orchestra

Organist Bengt Tribukait

- *Laud* (15') for baroque organ
funded by Längmanska Kulturfond and Helge Ax:son Johnson Stifelse

Gränslandet Symfonisk Fest

- orchestrations of eight songs (50') by artist Mariam the Believer

2018

Kristin Uglar and Linn Persson

- *Vingar, Virvlar* (4') for tenor and soprano saxophone

Sofia Vokalensemble

- *Cantate Domino* (7') and *Adoramus Te* (4') for SATB chorus

Uppsala Vokalensemble

- *Ljusfalten*: six poems by Edith Södergran (18') for SATB chorus
funded by Kulturrådet - Swedish Arts Council

2017

Sound of Stockholm Festival

- *smooth fat nasty* (8') for baritone saxophone

Guitarist Mårten Falk

- *Peregrinations* (20') for solo guitar

Gustaf Sjökvists Kammarkör

- *Lux Aeterna* (14') for SATB double choir
funded by Kulturrådet - Swedish Arts Council

2016

Washington National Opera at The Kennedy Center

- chamber opera *Lifeboat* (25')
A John F. Kennedy Center Commission for American Opera Initiative

Northwestern University Contemporary Music Ensemble

- *Tumult and Flood* (17') for orchestra of soloists

Illinois Wesleyan University

- *January* (5') for string trio

2007-2015

select commissions

University of Tartu Chamber Choir

- *Surgit Dorpatum* (10', 2015) for SSAA women's choir a cappella

St. Olaf College

- *Corde Natus* (6', 2014) for orchestra

Freya String Quartet

- *Badlands* (13', 2013) for string quartet

St. Olaf College

- *Dawn: Redeeming, Radiant* (4', 2012) for orchestra

Beat Song

- *Mass* (10', 2011) for soprano and percussion

St. Olaf Orchestra

- *Hyperborea* (10', 2014) for orchestra

Aldworth Philharmonic Orchestra

- *A London Thoroughfare: 2 A.M.* (14', 2007)

St. Olaf Band

- *Reflections on the Death of the Beloved* (16', 2008) for symphonic band funded by the Miles "Mity" Johnson Foundation

honors, grants and awards**2023**

Musikförläggarnas Pris (Swedish Music Publisher's Award) for *An Inner Sky*
Carin Malmlöf-Forsssling composer prize from the Swedish Royal Academy of Music
STIM artist award/STIM Stipendium

2021

Sven-David Sandström Award for Choral Composition from the Swedish Royal Academy of Music
Commissioning grant from Swedish Arts Council/Kulturrådet
Dalecarlia Music Award for "Classical Artist of the Year"

2020

Recording grant/fonogramstöd, Swedish Arts Council
STIM (Swedish performing rights organization) artist award/STIM Stipendium
Work Grant from Konstnärnsnämnden/ the Artists Fund

2019

Recording grant/fonogramstöd, Swedish Arts Council/Kulturrådet
FST stipendium / work grant from Swedish Composers Association
Grant from Helge Ax:son Johnson Stiftelse
Grant from Längmanska Kulturfond

2018

Winner, Washington International Competition for composition
Commissioning grant from Swedish Arts Council/Kulturrådet

2017

Commissioning grant from Swedish Arts Council/Kulturrådet

2016

FST stipendium / work grant from Swedish Composers Association
Commissioning grant from Swedish Arts Council/Kulturrådet
Washington National Opera "American Opera Initiative" John F. Kennedy Center Commission
Selected composer for 2016 "Presentation of New Swedish Orchestra Music," Malmö Live

select honors 2006-2015

2014 Uppsala tonsättartävling – grand prize winner, winner of audience prize
2014 ASCAP Foundation Nissim Prize – winner, best orchestral score
Frame Dance Electro-Acoustic Composition Competition – 2nd place
Fort Worth Opera Frontiers Festival – winner, best chamber opera
3rd International Frank Ticheli Composition Contest for wind band works, 2nd place
Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute awardee
American Prize in orchestral composition, 2nd place (2011)
Third Angle Ensemble – competition winner, national category (2011)
Opera Vista Award – winner, best chamber opera (2011)
BMI (Broadcast Music International) Student Composer Award (2007, 2010)
Fulbright Fellow – Sweden, music composition (2008-09)
Aldworth Philharmonic Orchestra Young Composers Award and Commission (2007)
VocalEssence Essentially Choral Award (2007)
Chanticleer Student Composer Award (2006)

teaching

Lilla Akademien Musik Gymnasiet, 2014-present

Head instructor in composition

- individual lessons in composition
- composition seminar and masterclass
- Gy 1-3 and Pre-college composition/arranging courses (ages 15 - adult)
- Previously taught Gy 1-3 theory, ear-training, and advanced analysis
- Reference: Emelia Gardemar, rektor Lilla Akademien (+46) 70-441 37 49

Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, 2011-2012

Associate Instructor in music composition

- notation for undergraduate composition students
- Individual lessons in composition for non-major bachelor and masters music students
- Reference: David Dzubay, chair, composition dept. (+1) 812-855-5833

Gotlandtonsättarskolan (Gotland School of Music Composition, Sweden) 2010-2011

Instructor in music composition

- notation
- aural-skills course
- Reference: Mattias Svensson, head of program (+46) 498-28-48-10

guest artist

Boston Conservatory at Berklee School of Music | February 2024

St. Olaf College | February 2022

Illinois Wesleyan University | March 2016

Northwestern University | February 2016

University of North Dakota | September 2014

St. Olaf College | October 2010

professional associations

Edition Skellton publishes select orchestral and chamber works

Gehrmans Musikförlag publishes Matthew's choral works and select orchestral works

UTOM (Unga Tankar om Musik) member 2019-2023

Samtida Musik board member 2015-18, president 2017-2018

Musikcentrum Öst artist member 2016-present

FST (Föreningen Svenska Tonsättare/Association of Swedish Composers), member 2014-present

Svensk Musik distributing Peterson's works since 2014

Tempo Music Resource distributes select orchestra works since 2013

STIM Swedish Performance Rights Organization, composer member, world, 2014-present

ASCAP (American Society of Composers and Publishers), composer & publisher member in US

American Composers Forum, member since 2006

performers include:

Orchestras: Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Colorado Springs Symphony, Gothenburg Symphony, Malmö Symphony Orchestra, Gävle Symphony Orchestra, Västerås Sinfonietta, Uppsala Kammarorkester, Dalasinfoniettan, Jönköpings Sinfonietta, Northwestern University Contemporary Music Ensemble, Vanemuine Symphony, Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Columbus Symphony, Maryland Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, Northern Symphony Orchestra, Greater Grand Forks Symphony, Holland Symphony Orchestra, LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, Aldworth (UK) Philharmonic Orchestra, St. Olaf Orchestra, Concordia Orchestra, James Madison University Orchestra, Goshen Orchestra

Choirs: Swedish Radio Choir, Eric Ericsson Chamber Choir, Sofia Vokalensemble, the St Olaf Choir, Uppsala Vokalensemble, Hägerstens Kammarkör, Gustaf Sjökvists Kammarkör, Vocal ensemble *Chanticleer*, VocalEssence, Carolinae Female Choir, Oslo Musikkhøgskole Vokalensemble, Hjorthagens Vokalensemble, Hägerstens A Cappella

Opera: Washington (DC) National Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Opera Vista, St Olaf Lyric Theatre, Manhattan School of Music.

Chamber Ensembles: horn trio Ben Goldscheider Trio, string quartet Malvakvartetten, Stockholm Saxophone Quartet, Stockholm Wind Symphony (Blåsarsymfoniker) Saxophone Quartet, Persson/Uglar duo, Donkey Jam, Norrbotten NEO.

Soloists: organists Bengt Tribukait and Daniel Larsson. violinists Yoshioka Airi, Madalyn Parnas, Claudia Schaer, Alejandro Drago, Anyango Davenport, Timothy Kantor, Pasha Tseitlin and Ron Blessinger; cellist Jakob Koranyi; saxophonists Stephen Page, Linn Persson, Kristin Uglar; guitarist Mårten Falk; pianists Anna Christensson, Kati Gleiser, Nariaki Sugiura and Jon Jensen; percussionists Magdalena Meitzner, Caleb Fritel, Dave Hagedorn, Adam Cowger, Joel Robinette, and Jon Hess; singers Elisabeth Meyer, John Sax, Anna Laurenzo, Nate Mattingly, Andy Surrena, Christina Pecce, Trevor Martin, Sofia Jernberg, Laura Wilde, Raquel Gonzalez, Daryl Freedman, Meaghan Heath, Katherine Bond, Eric Neuville, and Sonja Tengblad Dutoit.

Wind Bands: Univ. of North Dakota Wind Ensemble, St. Olaf Band, Colorado State University Symphonic Band, Grand Forks Central Symphonic Band

select performed works listed by instrumentation

ORCHESTRA/large ensemble

- **Vagabond** (2024) orchestra 2222/2200/1perc/strings, duration 13:00
- **Högalidsmässan** (2023) SATB choir, brass quartet, organ, percussion, strings, duration 43:00
- **Four Northern Visions** (2022) orchestra 3333/4331/timp+3perc/hp/strings, duration 15:00
- **Aurora** (2022) orchestra 3333/4331/timp+3perc/hp/strings, duration 5:30
- **Symphony 1: The Singing Wilderness** (2021) orchestra 3333/4331/timp+3perc/hp/strings, duration 40:00
- **The Loons of Lac La Croix** (2021) orchestra 333/4331/timp+3perc/hp/strings, duration 5:30
- **The Way of a Canoe** (2021) for orchestra 3333/4331/timp+3perc/strings, duration 3:30
- **Newborn Glimmer** (2019) orchestra 3333/4331/timp+3perc/hp/strings, duration 5:30
- **Tumult and Flood** (2016) sinfonietta 1111/1111/2perc/pno/11111, duration 17:30
- **Corde Natus** (2014) orchestra 2222/4331/timp/3perc/strings, duration 6:00
- **And all the trees of the field will clap their hands** (2013) chamber orchestra 2222/2200/timp+1perc/strings 11:00
- **Dawn: Redeeming, Radiant** (2012) orchestra 2222/4331/timp/3perc/hp/strings, duration 4:30
- **Reflections on the Death of the Beloved** (2009) symphonic band, duration 15:00

OPERA

- **Voir Dire** (2010/rev. 2016) chamber opera, libretto by Jason Zencka
sop, men, ten, bar, b-bar, fl, cl, 2perc, pro, vln, vla, vc, cb, duration 86:00
- **Lifeboat** (2016) chamber opera, libretto by Emily Roller
sop, mez, bar, 1111/1110/pno/perc/10111, duration 25:00
- **The Binding of Isaac** (2006) chamber opera, libretto by Jason Zencka
sop, mez, treble, bar, small SATB chorus, hn, perc, hp, 2vln, vla, vc, duration 40:00

DANCE WORKS

- **Sentio Ergo Sum** (2023), Christina Tingskog's Relativ Dansproduktion, 2-channel 40:00
- **Dimridåer and Villospår** (2022), Christina Tingskog's Relativ Dansproduktion, 2-47:00

CHORAL

- **You are my hiding place** (2023) SSAA, 5:00
- **Högalidsmässan** (2023) SATB and chamber orchestra or organ reduction, 43:00
- **An Inner Sky** (2022) SATB, 18:00
- **Behold, I make all things new** (2022) SATB, 5:00
- **Non Nobis** (2020) SATB, 4:00
- **Salve Regina** (2020) SMATBB, 6:30
- **And lo, a great multitude...** (2020) SATB double chorus, 8:00
- **In the Beginning** (2020) SATB and organ/sax quartet, 6:00
- **Adoramus Te** (2018) SMATBB, 4:00
- **Ave Maris Stella** (2018) SATB, 6:30
- **Cantate Domino** (2018) SATB, 6:00
- **Ljusfälten/Light Fields** (2018) SATB, 17:00
- **sommar i bergen** (2018) SATB & nyckelharpa, 5:00
- **Lux Aeterna** (2017) SATB double chorus, 14:00
- **Surgit Dorpatum** (2015) SSAA, 10:00
- **Miserere Mei** (2006) SATB, 8:00
- **The Bedtime Prayer** (2004) SATB, 5:00

SOLO / SOLO + EAM

- **Creatures Wild and Lonely** (2024) tenor saxophone, 6:00
- **Progressive Waves** (2023) solo cello and live electronics, or 2-channel 6:11
- **Shamans of the Digital Wasteland** (2021) frame drum and electronics 9:37
- **To the Firmament** (2020) organ 7:00
- **Laud** (2020) organ 15:00

- **polska plska pla** (2019) piano 3:30
 - **The baddest girl on the mountain** (2019) alto saxophone 5:00
 - **Koraconnes** (2019) cello 7:00
 - **smooth fat nasty** (2017) baritone saxophone 7:30
 - **Peregrinations** (2017) guitar 17:00
 - **Huldra** (2014) marimba 6:00
 - **Bound and Unbound** (2011) piano 9:00
 - **Kick** (2009) solo percussion 8:30
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CHAMBER

- **Winning Isn't Everything It's the Only Thing** (2024) horn trio 12:00
 - **Lacrimae Rerum** (2023) cello duo 4:00
 - **Lament for Sven-David Sandström** (2020) saxophone quartet 6:00
 - **Dance Party Playlist** (2019) saxophone quartet 22:00
 - **Vingar, virvlar** (2018) sop & ten sax 4:30
 - **January** (2016) string trio 5:00
 - **Badlands** (2013) string quartet 13:00
 - **Mass** (2012) soprano and percussion 13:00
 - **Empire Builder** (2012) fl pno vln vc 4:00
 - **Thunderheads** (2011) 2 percussionists 3:30
 - **Brutal Music** (2010) fl cl pno perc vln vla vc cb 12:00
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ELECTRONIC

- **Rain Dances** (2012) 4-channel 8:42
 - **Horizons** (2011) 2-channel 6:17
 - **Shamans of the Digital Wasteland** (2021) frame drum and electronics 9:37
 - **Progressive Waves** (2023) solo cello and live electronics, or 2-channel 6:11
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DANCE

- **Sentio Ergo Sum** (2023), Christina Tingskog's Relativ Dansproduktion, 2-channel 40:00
- **Dimridåer and Villospår** (2022), Christina Tingskog's Relativ Dansproduktion, 2-channel 47:00